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REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 20-36 are pending in the application. Claims 1-19 have been cancelled without prejudice and claims 23-36 have been added.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by PCT document number WO 01/85581 A1.

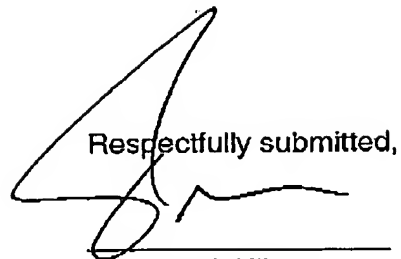
Although applicant respectfully disagrees with this position, claims 1-19 have been cancelled herewith without prejudice to accelerate the examination of the application and the grant of the patent.

Claims 20-22 are allowed.

Dependent claims 23-36 have been added. These new dependent claims correspond to certain of the cancelled dependent claims. New claims 23 and 24 depend from allowed independent claim 20 and new claims 25-36 depend from allowed independent claim 21. Therefore, claims 23-36 are also believed to be in allowable condition.

Conclusion

All matters having been addressed above and in view of the pending claims and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Applicants' counsel remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this application.


Respectfully submitted,

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